

THE COLORADO NEWS DEPARTMENT

DENVER.

A QUESTION OF FAITH.

Denver, Colo., Nov. 29, '99.
To the Editor of The Intermountain and Colorado Catholic:

Dear Sir—It often happens in my daily work that I run across Protestants, who are ever anxious to make a tilt at Catholicity. I have a friend with whom I have many conversations. I believe he is a Methodist; but no matter what he is, I think he is in earnest about his soul. The other day he met me in the street and said: "Oh! I have a little book I would like you to read, will you read it?" I answered: "Yes." "Will you really read a Protestant book?" queried he. "Certainly," said I.

He brought in his little book. I carefully read it. I believe the title was "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth." I found it to be as like as two peas to many others I had read. It was a question of the work was to have "Justification by Faith." The next day I returned his little book to him with the following note:

Dear Charles—I have read your little book with great pleasure. I have, during the past fortnight read a work by a Second Adventist, who predicts and tries to prove that the coming of Christ is due Sept. 29, 1900 or 1901 (I forget which), but that this date never saw a Bible. To me, the Bible is the inspired word of God. If it is so to you, let me ask you to prove your authority for such a belief.

"I shall only notice two chapters in your little book, viz: Those on the Church and on Faith, because, as you know, faith enters into the foundation. With-out Faith it is impossible to please God, and without the Church we cannot have a right faith. Now let us examine and see what this church and what faith really are. On page seven Mr. S. speaks with great force on the church. 'One Church, One Body,' he reiterates, and if you will turn to that Corinthians 12-26, you will find that this one church is to be whole and sound; that there shall be no schism or division in it. It must be one in faith (1. E. doctrine)."

Now get your dictionary and your Bible; but before you do so, let me say, complexity of doctrine will never save your soul. You must begin at the beginning. Faith, hope, charity, is the starting point. What is the good of you carrying your Bible around with you, to be continually worrying out a lot of badly selected verses, and then put them together (or divide them as you choose) to try and prove some point, and, after all, prove nothing; and even worse, they may not even mean what you have in mind?

Is this the New Testament? I have a Jewish Scripture and turn only to the new, he says. Let me ask you, what is it? I, of course, must answer, but it's the right answer. The original account of the rise of Christianity." Am. Enc. Vol. I, page 309.

It was compiled in about its present form somewhere near A. D. 290, authorized by the Council of Nice, the Christian Church about 400 (fifth century); declared to be the only authorized version and inspired Word of God in the fifth century by the Council of Carthage. I believe, corrected of about 150,000 errors (the whole book) by the twelfth century; put into chapters by a Cardinal in the thirteenth century; done into verses by a Monk in about the fourteenth or fifteenth century; given to the world at large to read in the sixteenth or seventeenth century, and millions can read it today. This is all from memory, but it's about correct. That is what the New Testament is. Now, then, what is the Church? The general or collective body of Christians throughout the world (Worcester). The Church is undoubtedly one (Worcester). The Church is the religious society, that was founded by Jesus Christ in the year 33, in the city of Jerusalem; when Christ gave his apostles the commission to the Apostles: "Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against her." Now, then, what is the Church? A real, perfect society. "The kingdom of heaven on earth." He gathered around him twelve of them. He called them Apostles (meaning sent). He created them priests and bishops, and gave them power to elect others to succeed them. He gave them power to loose and to bind, and made Peter their leader. (Read Matt. xvi, 19.) But it was not such an incorporation as we have today, your mind say well? Why, Charles, you might as well tell me the H. E. Mining Company that you organized a few years ago was not a real corporation; that the president and board of directors were not appointed; that the stock you sold was not stock, but only a piece of paper, and I would accept it much easier than I would believe that when Christ said to His Apostles, "Go," and when He said "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," when He said "Ye are forgiven," and when He said "Upon whomsoever you shall lay your hands, they shall receive the Holy Ghost," were mere empty words.

This matter you must admit, if you read your Bible, is not honestly put by Mr. S. I would advise you to put away your Bible, and read the Bible, and turn to the book itself. Begin at Matthew. Ask yourself, What is it? What am I going to read? The history or memory of Jesus, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? Or is it a book that matters not? When was it written. Several years after Christ's resurrection. Read it straight through. Don't pick out a bit here and a bit there. Get a scribbled pad and make a memorandum of things as they turn up. Now, then, what is the Bible? Notice how Peter stands. Make heads: Doctrine, Church, Apostles, to Whom Said, Time, Conditions. When you read anything, reported to have been said by Jesus, put before it: At that time Jesus said so and so. Let your inquiries be governed by good judgment and common sense. Be honest in your dealings with God and He will give you grace. Grace! Now, what is grace? The supernatural gift of God to the soul. It is by the grace of God that I hold the Catholic faith.

Faith—let us understand that right. Faith is to believe without doubting whatever God has revealed. Now we come to the parting of the ways. But how has God revealed this truth? How made His revelation to us. In one way only: Through His Church, and in no other way. "We are saved by grace through faith." Not through reading the Bible. Oh, no! Not that way. Have I not shown you that the Testament was not in existence for hundreds of years until Christ had gone up into heaven? Some of the best Christians that ever lived never heard of the Bible. Millions that died for the faith never heard of such

a thing. They had great faith. They got it from the right place, the Church. Matt. xviii, 17-20. Faith is not believing anything you fancy suits you. A few weeks ago I heard a lawyer express an opinion after reading the reported sermon of a Denver minister on the Lord's Supper. He said: "That fellow's all right." That's my opinion. Then he read the opinion of another minister on the same subject, and he said: "I guess that fellow's all right, too." Yet one contradicted the other. "Devils believe and tremble." It is having divine faith. The faith once delivered to the Apostles and Saints; the faith committed to those who are commissioned to keep it, until the end of time. It covers a large field, but you'll find it "most comprehensively set forth in the Apostles' Creed. The oldest and most comprehensive creed of Christianity."

No, sir. A man cannot read right the New Testament if he does not understand what the church is. So you see, I cannot accept any interpretation of Scripture, or any bond of faith, unless it comes from the authoritative source, viz: the Church that Christ established to teach men; the Church to which he committed the deposit of faith, and promised to keep pure and holy, and to guide into all truth until the end of the world. Self-made, self-constituted teachers I have no use for. May God bless you. Yours, as ever, H. A. W.

HAPPENINGS AT ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

On Nov. 26 the Sisters of Loretto had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day long in their exquisite chapel. The

Misses Theo Gray, Grace Cassel and Muriel Lauson have kindly consented to be correspondents for The Intermountain Catholic at this city.

It is necessary to cancel their engagement. However, their tour has been a great success—their mission has been fulfilled. A New York dispatch says: "The mission of Lord Mayor Daniel Tallon of Dublin, and John E. Redmond, M. P. to visit us. A grand reception was in course of preparation at the time when the word came that the distinguished Irish leaders had found

occasion for this privilege was a representation of the degradation of the Blessed Sacrament which occurred at St. Elizabeth's church, West Denver, on the night of Nov. 15.

The Sacred Heart in the tabernacle must have been consoled by the loving adoration which was kept up so fervently all day, not only by the Sisters, but by crowds of the devout faithful, who visited the convent chapel from morning until evening of the favored day.

On Thanksgiving eve the junior department of the Academy gave a most delightful entertainment to parents and friends in the large study hall of the Academy.

The "Gypsy Queen," a cantata, was charmingly rendered by the dear little pupils, who also excelled themselves by many beautiful musical numbers, both vocal and instrumental, interspersed with recitations amusing and otherwise.

A most proud parent carried home a delighted and happy heart that evening because of the success of the dear little ones who gave such a pleasurable surprise by their "own entertainment" as they termed it.

On Dec. 21 one of the finest entertainments that have ever been given in the history of the Academy.

The musical numbers will be rendered by the St. Mary's orchestra, the docuology selections by the grade, and senior students, and the magnificent drama, "Pontia, the Daughter of Pilate," by a number of the alumnae of St. Mary's.

Mr. Fuller of Utah is a visitor of Mrs. T. Ryan.

Rev. A. Pelitz attended the conference at Leadville.

Messrs. Shes and Schaefer will leave for Telluride this week.

Mr. McKee and Miss K. and Miss B. O'Rourke are down from Telluride for the winter.

Sugar beets are rivaling winter apples in point of the number of teams employed in delivery.

A new bank has been organized at Delta called the Delta State bank, to succeed the Delta County bank.

Mrs. McCarthy, who was very low with paralysis, is again convalescing, to the joy of her husband and friends.

Joseph Roche stopped at Delta on his way to Grand Junction, where he is intended to move his home. He was in Telluride for some time.

Mr. F. Roth, the agent of The Intermountain Catholic, was the guest of the Rev. Father for a few days of the past week. He met with good success.

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EDGAR ALLEN POE—AFTER FIFTY YEARS.

(Wm. Rufus Gill, Paris, France.)
When Rufus W. Griswold, the pedagogue vampire, as he was aptly termed by one of his contemporaries, committed the immortal infamy of blighting a collection of Edgar Allen Poe's works, which he found ready at hand, by supplementing his nefarious labor with a calumnious memoir of the poet, nearly fifty years ago, there were many protests uttered by the poet's contemporaries at home and abroad. Charles Baudelaire, the Poe of French literature, in his tribute to the dead poet, indignantly wrote: "What is the matter with America? Are there, then, no regulations there to keep the curs out of the cemetery?" In view of the fact that the Griswold biography of Poe has been incontestably discredited, and proved to be merely a scaffolding of malevolence and mendacity—the outcome of malice and avarice—the defense paid to Griswold and his baleful work in the memoir accompanying the latest publication of Poe's writings seems well nigh incomprehensible. Professor Woodberry excuses the detractors of Poe's villain, "in view of the contemporary uncertainty of Poe's fame, the difficulty of obtaining a publisher, and the fact that the editorial work was not paid for. Most amazing reasons! Indeed, in justification of Griswold's interpolation as the poet's biographer—an office that had been specially bequeathed by Poe's genius to his bosom friend, Nathaniel P. Willis. Had Willis shouldered this responsibility, there might have been some excuse for Griswold and his horde of sycophants, who wreaked their venom upon the name of Poe, out-

MONTROSE

(Correspondence Intermountain Catholic.)
Montrose, Nov. 28.—Divine service at St. Mary's church every other Sunday: Low Mass and instruction at 8 o'clock. High Mass and sermon at 10:30 a. m. Rev. Charles M. Farrar, at pastor.

Mrs. F. C. Lauson has gone to Anadonia for the winter.

The choir rendered Stern's Mass last Sunday with brilliant effect.

Mr. John J. O'Neill of Leadville was here on Friday and Saturday.

Mr. T. E. Fenlon has one of the finest stores in the state in the jewelry line.

Miss Rose Bennett has been quite for several days. She is now able to be about.

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